

Right Care Right Person Implementation Principles

Introduction

Right Care Right Person (RCRP) is an approach aimed at ensuring people of all ages receive the appropriate support from the right services at the right time. This briefing focuses on the implementation principles of RCRP specifically for children.

Developed in consultation with representative bodies for statutory safeguarding partners and relevant agencies. These principles emphasise the importance of working with safeguarding partners, prioritising child safeguarding in decision making, considering the best interests of the child, treating children as vulnerable, and maintaining a focus on delivering the right care from the right person.

The principles highlight the need for:

- Collaboration
- Joint risk assessment
- Clear governance structures to ensure effective implementation

This briefing serves as a resource for safeguarding partners, local authorities, and police officers involved in RCRP for children. [Access full guidance here.](#)

RCRP Key Principles

1 Working with Safeguarding Partners

RCRP does not override existing agreed ways of working between safeguarding partners.

The response to RCRP calls should be based on established local arrangements that ensure the right agency responds.

A joint risk assessment and an implementation plan should be developed in collaboration with all statutory safeguarding partners.

Local implementation plans should be co-produced to ensure each partner can carry out their role effectively.

2 Child Safeguarding at the centre of decision making

Safeguarding should be prioritised and promoted by all partners involved in RCRP.

The duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, as outlined in the Children Act 2004, should be considered in decision making.

Safeguarding partners should work together to identify and respond to the needs of children in their area.

3 Ensure the best interests of the child

The best interests of the child should be integral to decision making in RCRP.

Referrals to the most appropriate agency, such as local authority children's social care, may be necessary even if there is no immediate risk of significant harm.

Robust governance structures and escalation processes should be in place to ensure the best interests of the child are met.

4 Treat children as vulnerable

Children should be treated as inherently vulnerable when assessing risk in RCRP.

Police force policies should explicitly state that children are treated as vulnerable and outline the additional weight given to vulnerability in risk assessment.

5 Child Safeguarding at the centre of decision making

Safeguarding should be prioritised and promoted by all partners involved in RCRP.

The duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, as outlined in the Children Act 2004, should be considered in decision making.

Safeguarding partners should work together to identify and respond to the needs of children in their area.

These principles should be read alongside following guidance

[Right Care Right Person Toolkit](#)

[APCC Guidance](#)

[Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023](#)

Partners should also refer to NHS guidance for health services and the Department of Health and Social Care's social care guidance.